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PROGRESS REPORT OF THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA, ORR

MOUTH OF SEPTEMBER 1958

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF, GEOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

A. Accomplishments and Coordination Activities

1. Production in the Geographic Research Area generally held steady during September. A variety of priority projects in support of intelligence collection were completed and disseminated. Other work of importance involved geographic support of the Department of State and the completion of research on a number of studies prepared in support of operational planning.

2. The Cartography Division completed 133 maps and charts -- 123 for the Agency and 10 for the Department of State. Requests were accepted for 121 maps and charts -- 118 for the Agency and 3 for the Department of State.

3. The Geography Division completed two Geographic Intelligence Reports (GR-183, Civil Divisions of the World: Part III, Europe; and GR-184, Civil Divisions of the World: Part IV, Oceania); one NIS Section 19 of Chapter I on Greece; one contribution to the NIS Chapter I Annual on Communist China; and four geographic memoranda in the G/I series.

4. The Map Library Division received 5,577 foreign-published maps during September. Of these, 34% were retained in CIA: 34% sent to AMS, and 23% to the Library of Congress. Requests for maps and related materials continued to show a steady increase. During September, 28,206 map sheets were sent out in response to 1,377 requests; in addition, 227 geographic and cartographic items were distributed in response to 110 requests. Interest in material on the Far East--especially on Quemoy, Matsu, and surrounding areas--remained high.

5. Chief, Geography Division, met with the unconventional-warfare team of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to determine how well and universally our recommendations for unconventional-warfare areas are being accepted. It was found that the recommendations are apparently well accepted.

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7. At the Acting AD's request, an assessment of an intelligence collection proposal relating to Svalbard was prepared for General Cabell.

8. A special memo outlining the geographic criteria that would be involved in any earth satellite launching by Communist China was prepared for the DD/I.

9. Extended discussions were held by Chief, Special Research Branch, with personnel of the Trade Controls Branch on developments concerning recent Soviet efforts to obtain covertly U.S. gravity instruments. Action is now being taken by the Department of Commerce to reinstate gravimeters on the U.S. controls list.

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11. In recognition of the increased responsibilities of the Map Library Division in the guidance of mapping intelligence collection, a policy memorandum which outlines the responsibilities of the various GRA divisions in the fields of mapping intelligence and geographic intelligence was issued by the Chief, Geographic Research Area.

12. 25X1A9a Chief, D/GL, departed for Europe to undertake a series of priority map procurement coordinations.

13. 25X1A9a of Europe Branch returned from a TDY in Europe, during which he made useful contacts at field stations and briefed field personnel on the responsibilities and needs of the Geography Division.

25X1A9a of the Near East-Africa Branch returned from a similar TDY in southern and eastern Africa; he reports that no problems of consequence were encountered in the course of his trip, and that discussions of area problems with personnel in the field proved highly effective.

14. 25X1A9a Europe Branch, D/GG, resigned during the month.



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